

HOUSE OF DELEGATES IN A PLEASANT FRAME OF MIND



HIGH LICENSE BILL PASSED BY SENATE

(Continued From First Page.)

only, with a penitentiary sentence, in the discretion of the jury. There was no opposition to the bill.

Board of Accountancy.

The bill providing a State Board of Accountancy went through without dissenting votes, after the members had learned that no expense whatever would be entailed upon the State. The fee which would be paid by the applicant for the board would be paid by the applicant. The board is to be composed of five members, to be appointed by the Governor. Those who pass its examinations will be allowed to practice as chartered public accountants, while other accountants may still call themselves public accountants, the distinction being made for the information of the public.

Public hearings before committees are coming thick and fast. The Throckmorton dairy bill was discussed yesterday afternoon. Its consideration being continued until next Wednesday afternoon. Practically all the spare time of the legislators is now being devoted to committee labor.

Following a most eloquent plea from ex-Attorney-General Anderson, the House Committee on General Laws yesterday reported favorably the bill donating part of the Lee Camp Soldiers' Home property for a Confederate memorial or Battle Abbey. The bill went to the calendar.

The Byrd liquor bill will be given a hearing Tuesday morning before the House Committee on Counties, Cities and Towns.

A new amendment to the Constitution was offered in the House yesterday by Messrs. Lewis and Tullaferrro. It makes poll taxes collectible with other taxes, and also makes them a lien on personal property.

SENATE

Beginning with prayer, offered by Rev. Robert W. Forsyth, of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, the Senate convened yesterday at the customary time. Senator Folkes brought up a resolution requiring the general appropriation bill to be made a special and continuing order for February 15. He wanted to ward off the old precedent of bringing on the bill at the very last minute, and passing it with hasty deliberation. The Finance Committee has been considering the bill a long time, he said, and ought to be ready to report.

The stalwart champion of that committee, Senator Kezzer, replied that the committee had fully considered the situation. It had found a condition of increased demands in some directions and decreased revenues in others. The criminal expenses of the State had increased \$20,000 over the previous two years. The revenue from the liquor traffic had decreased \$78,000 under the previous amount received by the State. The Finance Committee wishes to be perfectly frank, he said. There are certain fixed charges that must be met. There are other appropriations for worthy causes which the committee thought worthy and far from extravagant, and no one wished to see these appropriations disturbed.

There are certain expenditures that are automatically recurrent, such as the expenses of the tax assessment and the contingent expenses of the General Assembly. The Finance Committee would not report a bill, unless sufficient means are provided to cover all the items proposed in such a report.

There is not, he continued, a section in the State which has not materially increased in the last few years. There always have been inequalities, and the committee is trying to correct these now. "The actual enhancement of property ought to be reflected in the assessment of 1911," said he. Despite the presentation of the Fletcher bill, amendments have come from every source undertaking to provide other plans. Not all of these are hostile; some are helpful.

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The President ruled that no special order could thus be made of a bill not yet on the calendar.

"I just wanted to smoke out the Finance Committee," answered Senator Folkes, rising to a point of personal privilege, after he had been cut off from speaking by the point of order. "When anything important comes up it is always out of order to talk about it. According to modern philosophy, the kick of a mule is just as painful, whether it is intentional or not."

Little bills first. He realized that members of the Senate would be allowed "the divine choice" of voting for little bills for fifty-nine days, and on the sixtieth day, when the big bill came up, they would have to vote on it in a few minutes, it would pass, so that the people might have some evidence that its representatives are "earning their salt."

On motion of Senator Harman, it was resolved that at 2:30 the President should vacate the chair and resume it at 4:30, so that several bills might go to their second reading in the afternoon.

On motion of Senator Ward, a committee to confer with a Senate committee to agree on a time limit for the presentation of bills in both branches was authorized. Senators Ward, Kezzer and Walker were designated to act on this committee.

Unanimous consent was asked by Senator Helt, so that he might bring up his bill raising liquor license taxes. It was given, and the bill received the unanimous final assent of the Senate. Before the vote, Senator Parks had embodied into the bill a provision requiring that a liquor manufacturer might himself transport his product to places where liquor may be lawfully sold, instead of having to deliver to a common carrier for transportation.

When the Fletcher bill came up for consideration, Senator Halsey took the floor to answer the many proposers of amendments to the measure. The Hol-land amendment, limiting the arbitrariness to 25 per cent, he thought both wise and salutary. It would prevent any possibility of excessive assessments on land and provide that no land would be assessed at more than its market value.

The Stroh and Folkes amendments should not be attached as riders, he said. They are not germane to the purpose of the bill. They only served to weight it down, and might impair or destroy the chances of its passage.

Incorporation into the bill of the Folkes mineral tax amendment might cause the defeat of the measure in its entirety. "It is best to divide and conquer," he said.

Assessment of mineral lands is desirable, but the Constitution makes a plain distinction between the modes of taxation of mineral land and other kinds of land. Senator Halsey agreed with Senator Folkes that that distinction had been made because the mineral land was more valuable. Any other reason urged for separate bills was that the mineral assessment is made each year, the land assessment once in five years, and the combinations of two classes in the bill might be destructive.

Shutting Amendments. Slashing up the Stroh amendment, he said that its proposition to have the Corporation Commission assessment of the real estate of public service corporations reviewed in certain cases by the Auditor and Attorney-General was neither wise nor expedient. There is no reason thus to "put and Stroh in a battle of statistics. He pointed out that these counties are fire on the backs" of the Corporation Commission.

It was unwise, he thought, to provide that the Court of Appeals should review the assessment finally when brought up by the Attorney-General. Its function is to pass upon questions of constitutionality, and the question of assessment is a legislative, rather than a judicial, question. "The power to tax is a power to destroy," and should be exercised supremely by the Legislature.

Disclaiming that he was a special pleader for corporations, Senator Halsey said that it is not consistent with public policy to place an unusually heavy burden on one class of taxpayers and exempt others from such burdens. Even if some of the assessments of the Corporation Commission were low, there may have been mitigating circumstances, such as the panic.

The Fletcher bill is not to elevate assessments on farm land. "There are others who have just as much right to pose as the farmer's friend as Senator Stroh," he said. The farmer must come under the same burden as the mechanic, the laboring man, and other classes. Equalization is the single aim. Bills will be presented, affecting all classes of taxable persons.

Referring to an alleged statement of the Auditor that he was opposed to the Fletcher bill, he said he thought that officer would perform his duties without any question of any sort.

First Equip. Office. In answer to the assertion of Senator Saunders that the present Auditor of Public Accounts has been engaged in clerical work the greater part of his life and probably never had any experience with farm lands, Senator Halsey said that, of course, he would be necessary to equip the office with the facilities and assistants necessary for this work.

The present bill is the best under the existing circumstances, but will not become the permanent law of the land. He had said favored a tax commission, but was convinced by the arguments in the Finance Committee that the Fletcher bill is the best measure that can be devised for the present need.

Showing deficits in Amherst and Lee counties, he engaged Senators Noel very low in tax-paying, and as compared with other counties in the same locality, are grossly deficient in tax returns to the State. Contrasting Campbell, his county, and Amherst, lying just next door, he pointed out that Campbell paid in \$108,330 more to the State than it received from it, while Amherst showed a deficit of \$15,523. Yet they are equally poor. He arrayed Amherst, Lee and the other low tax-paying counties in an indictment of accusing statistics.

Senator Fletcher moved that the bill be recommitted so that the proposed amendments might be reconsidered. It was so ordered.

On motion of Senator Halsey the proposed amendments to the State Constitution were set as a special order for 1 o'clock to-day.

The chair was vacated at 2:30. At 4:30 President Elyson resumed it. Fifty-five bills were sent to their second reading.

Anti-Football Bill. When the Parks anti-football bill was reached on the calendar Senator Early wished it passed by.

"I am not jesting about this bill," replied Senator Parks. "and I do not wish it passed by. I am in as dead earnest about this bill as I ever have been about anything in my legislative experience. I know of no measure more important to the athletes, or none more important to the institutions of learning. It is important to the athletes because it purports to protect them in life and limb from danger. It is important to the institutions because the parents, the mothers and fathers, are suffering in mind continually about their sons who play this game. Under the rules at present in force the game is a disgrace to civilization in this State. It is not a drastic measure, but a just one."

"They say they are going to amend the game so as to cut out all 'movements' that result in death or disfigurement. If they do, that is well. But I do not wish to delay this bill. I am so impressed with the importance of its becoming a law that I believe I

can convince even Senator Early that this is a proper bill."

Senator Tucker said that despite his youth he was in sympathy with the anti-football bill. It is a brutal game, he thought, and he wanted time to consider the bill.

That he had had no chance to appear before the committee on the bill, was the protest of Senator Early, former star center of the university, who said that he had advocated "this great game" in both branches of the Legislature. Right now changes for safety in the game are being considered of all the great universities. He wanted the bill passed by, so that it might be well considered.

Senator Parks answered that he had expected Senator Early to appear before the committee in opposition to the bill and that he had had due notice and ought to have appeared.

On a vote, the motion to pass by the bill was lost. Senator Early tried to get the eyes and noses, but could not get enough members to support the call. A very few Senators were present. Not wishing to cut off the reading of bills by raising the point of "no quorum," a point which probably would have been sustained, he did not further press the matter.

On motion of Senator Carter, the Senate adjourned at 4:55.

third reading the following were finally passed without opposition: To provide for an election by the voters of Waverly Magisterial District, in Sussex county, on the retention or abolition of their dispensary. Patron, Mr. Yarrell.

To authorize the town of Suffolk to borrow money. Patron, Mr. West.

To make frauds in elections a felony. Patron, Mr. Kaysner.

To require foreign corporations to procure certificates of authority from the State Corporation Commission. Patron, Mr. Byrd.

To appropriate \$55,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, to pay the pensions of soldiers and the widows of soldiers who are on the pension list and whose pensions have not been paid. Patrons, Messrs. McRae and Yarrell.

To extend the breeder's lien on colts to twelve months. Patron, Mr. Coleman.

Property Accepted. To authorize the trustees of New London Academy to turn over its property to the school boards of Campbell and Bedford counties. Patrons, Messrs. West, Page and Williams.

To establish a State Board of Accountancy, and to prescribe its duties and powers. Patron, Mr. Stebbins.

To apply the law relative to obtaining a divorce. (Continued on Fifth Page.)

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HOUSE

Among the bills reported favorably from committees when the House met yesterday were: To give strip at southwest corner of Capitol Square to the city of Richmond; to donate part of the Soldiers' Home grounds for a Confederate Memorial Institute or Battle Abbey; to prevent pandering.

Mr. Spessard offered a resolution requiring the clerk of the Supreme Court of Appeals to furnish information as to the amount of fees received by him for the years 1907, 1908, 1909 and 1910, and the amount he expended in the hire of assistants. It was referred to the Finance Committee.

Mr. Lewis was appointed a member of the Committee for Courts of Justice, and Mr. Good, of the Committee on the Chesapeake and Its Tributaries, to take the place of the late Thomas H. Edwards.

Bill Is Amended. The Senate amendment to House bill No. 10 was agreed to by a vote of 60 to 20. The amendment eliminated the jail sentence for persons convicted of using abusive language to others.

Two Senate bills were then passed. That to provide for the regulation and inspection of public laundries and wash houses went through by a vote of 70 to 9, and that allowing Elizabeth City county to alone elect a member of the House of Delegates by a vote of 60 to 22.

The latter bill struck a good many members as being in conflict with the Constitution, which may have been intended to provide for redistricting only at certain times. This was the only objection to the measure, which was argued by Messrs. Stubbs, Yarrell and White.

Measures on Final Passage. On the call of House bills on their

CHILDREN

In disorders and diseases of children drugs seldom do good and often do harm. Careful feeding and bathing are the babies' remedies.

Scott's Emulsion is the food-medicine that not only nourishes them most, but also regulates their digestion. It is a wonderful tonic for children of all ages. They rapidly gain weight and health on small doses.

Send 10c. name of paper and this ad. for our beautiful Savings Bank and Child's Sketch-Book. Each book contains a Good Luck Penny.

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"I took Hood's Sarsaparilla when I was a very sick woman, had no appetite whatever, and could not sleep more than three hours a night. I was persuaded by a friend to try it, took two bottles of it, and it greatly benefited me; gave me a good appetite and sound sleep."—MRS. JOHN EDENS, 2220 W. Third Street, Davenport, Iowa.

Hood's Sarsaparilla restores the appetite and makes sleep sound and refreshing by building up the whole system. It purifies the blood, strengthens the nerves, aids and perfects digestion. Take it this spring.

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